

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

# MINUTES STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION REGULAR TELEPHONIC MEETING

5th Floor Conference Room November 4, 2020 9:30 A.M.

#### I. Call to Order

Commissioner Castagno was present via Webex and called the meeting to order at 9:31 A.M. Commissioner Salvatore Bramante was present. Commissioners Stephen Penny and Andrew Cascudo were present via Webex. Agency staff was also present.

#### II. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of October 21, 2020

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny to approve the October 21, 2020 minutes by a 4-0-0 vote. So voted.

### III. Administrative Reports

SEEC 2021 Meeting Schedule

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny to approve the SEEC 2021 Meeting Schedule by a 4-0-0 vote. So voted.

#### IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations

#### A. Public Session

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Lorelei O'Hagan, Cos Cob File No. 2019-161A

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent:

Laura Gladstone

Attorney:

Ryan M. Burns

Legal Investigator:

Stephanie Fish

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2019-161A. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny to adopt the Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2019-161A. So

voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Lorelei O'Hagan, Cos Cob File No. 2019-161B

Proposed Findings & Conclusions

Respondent: Kimberly Salib,

Kimberly Fiorello and Jessica Delguercio

Attorney: Ryan M. Burns

Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2019-161B. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny to adopt the Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2019-161B. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Philip Berns, Stamford File No. 2020-028

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent:
Attorney:
Ryan M. Burns
Legal Investigator:
Stephanie Fish

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2020-028. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny to adopt the Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2020-028. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Marc Lucier, Hartford File No. 2017-021

Proposed Findings & Conclusions

Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle

Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney James Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2017-021. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny to adopt the Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2017-021. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

5. *In re*. Commission Initiated Investigation into *Hwang4Senate Committee* File No. 2018-123

Proposed Findings & Conclusions

Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle

Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is marked off.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Katherine Goulart, New London File No. 2019-153

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent:

Attorney:

Diana Kulmacz

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2019-153. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny to adopt the Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2019-153. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

V. Executive Session per General Statutes §§ 1-200(6)(B) and (E), and 1-210(b)(1), (3),(4),(10) and General Statutes §9-7a, as amended by Public Act 11-48 §300 (Preliminary draft and agency consideration of enforcement action and exempt records relative thereto)

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny at 9:47 A.M. to proceed into Executive Session pursuant to General Statutes §§ 1-200(6)(B) and (E), and 1-210(b)(1),(3),(4),(10) to discuss strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims and exempt records. So voted.

Commissioner Bramante was present. Commissioners Castagno, Penny and Cascudo were present via Webex. Staff members present via Webex were Kevin Ahern, Ryan M. Burns, William B. Smith, James Talbert-Slagle, Alyssa Torres, Stephanie Fish, Douglas Frost, Joshua Foley, Shannon Kief and Michael J. Brandi. Staff members present were Scott Branfuhr and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

The Commission returned to public session at 10:25 A.M.

The Commission took the following actions in public session:

1. Recommendation of Counsel: Necessary to Investigate Determination pursuant to General Statutes §9-7a, as amended by Public Act 11-48 §300

Attorney Smith summarized the Recommendation of Counsel dated October 16, 2020 and requested that five (5) matters be moved to investigate.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to five (5) complaints File Nos. 2020-058; 2020-059; 2020-060; 2020-062 and 2020-065. So approved by the Commission 4-0-0. So voted.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Marcus Paca, New Haven In the Matter of a Complaint by Justin Elicker, New Haven In the Matter of a Complaint by Justin Elicker, New Haven File Nos. 2017-062A, 2019-030A & 2019-110A

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: Ryan M. Burns Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File Nos. 2017-062A, 2019-030A & 2019-110A. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny to adopt the Consent Order & Agreement in File Nos. 2017-062A, 2019-030A & 2019-110A. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Marcus Paca, New Haven File No. 2017-062B

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: Ryan M. Burns Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2017-062B. He recommended no further action of the complaint.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny to adopt a motion to direct staff to take no further action with regard to In the Matter of a Complaint by Marcus Paca, New Haven, File No. 2017-062B, provided that should the location of Respondent Knox become known to the

Commission or Commission staff, the Commission may direct staff to reopen this matter. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Marcus Paca, New Haven In the Matter of a Complaint by Justin Elicker, New Haven In the Matter of a Complaint by Justin Elicker, New Haven File No. 2017-062C, 2019-030B & 2019-110B

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: Ryan M. Burns Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File Nos. 2017-062C, 2019-030B & 2019-110B. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny to adopt the Consent Order & Agreement in File Nos. 2017-062C, 2019-030B & 2019-110B. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Stephen Kalinowski, Southington File No. 2020-044

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle Legal Investigator: James Augustyn

The matter is continued.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Matthew O'Brien, et al., Coventry File No. 2019-113

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2019-113. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny to adopt the Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2019-113. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

#### VI. Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session

## VII. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and Seconded by Commissioner Penny at 10:34 A.M. to adjourn the meeting. Unless otherwise noted, all votes of the Commission are unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

Clerk of the Commission

Adopted this 18th day of November, 2020 at Hartford, Connecticut.

Salvatore Bramante, ViceChair By Order of the Commission

The next regular scheduled meeting is November 18, 2020 at 9:30 A.M. in the 5th Floor Conference room.